

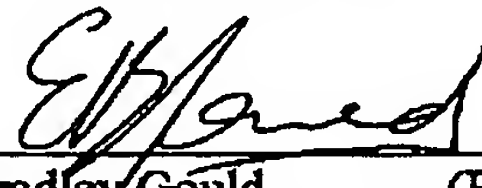
### REMARKS

Claims 28-43 and 46-52 are presently pending for the Examiner's review and consideration. The allowance of claims 20-40, and the indication of allowable subject matter in claim 45 is sincerely appreciated. Claim 41 has been amended to include the recitations of claim 45, which includes the recitations of claim 44. Consequently, claims 44 and 45 have thus been cancelled without prejudice, and claim 41 and the claims dependent thereon are presently allowable. No new issues have been introduced by the present amendment.

In view of the foregoing, applicants believe that the entire application is now in condition for allowance, early notice of which would be appreciated. Should the Examiner not agree, then a personal or telephonic interview is respectfully requested to discuss any remaining issues in an effort to expedite the allowance of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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